

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05  
/057 W

-----011146 080721Z /15

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC//DSAA-TS  
HQ USAF WASHDC//LGF  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J4  
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI//XPK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7012

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, TH  
SUBJECT: SECOND F5E SQUADRON FOR THAILAND

SUMMARY: ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED P&B DATA ON PURCHASE OF 18 F-5E AIRCRAFT FOR DELIVERY NOT LATER THAN 1980. AIRCRAFT ARE BEING CONSIDERED AS REPLACEMENTS FOR TWO SQUADRONS OF T-28'S. AS THAI HAVE ONE SQUADRON OF F-5A/B'S IN SERVICE AND ANOTHER SQUADRON OF F-5E'S DUE TO BE ACTIVATED IN JUNE, 1978, PROCUREMENT OF 18 ADDITIONAL F-5'S IS LOGICAL STEP, GIVEN THAI OVERALL SITUATION AND CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT THESE AIRCRAFT. MOREOVER, F-5'S ARE IN SERVICE WITH OTHER ASEAN STATES. WE WOULD HOPE WE COULD HAVE EARLY AND POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THAI REQUEST FOR P&B DATA ON THE SECOND SQUADRON OF F-5E'S FOR 1980 DELIVERY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED P&B INFORMATION FOR A SECOND SQUADRON OF 18 F-5E AIRCRAFT TO BE DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN 1980. THEY ARE CAREFULLY CONSIDERING REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR THEIR AGEING T-28  
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SQUADRONS AND WISH TO HAVE COSTING INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN ORDER TO EVALUATE POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE PERIOD.

2. THE SECOND SQUADRON WOULD BE BASED ON THE ORIGINAL SQUADRON PURCHASED UNDER FMS CASE PEACE ETERNAL AND SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY IN MAY-AUGUST 1978. PRICING INFORMATION SHOULD INCLUDE REQUIRED SPARES AND SPECIAL

EQUIPMENTS NECESSARY FOR ACTIVATION AND 18-MONTH OPERATION OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION, AND SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE ALREADY EXISTING EQUIPMENTS PROVIDED UNDER PEACE ETERNAL.

3. THE RTAF HAS A REQUIREMENT FOR REPLACING TWO SQUADRONS OF T-28 AIRCRAFT IN THE POST 1980 TIME FRAME. THEIR FORCE STRUCTURE ALSO CALLS FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIGHTER SQUADRON TO BE FORMED DURING THAT TIME PERIOD. THE FORCE STRUCTURE ENVISIONED IS ALSO CONTAINED IN THE JSOP/MSAP FOR THAT PERIOD. THE RTAF PRESENTLY OPERATES ONE SQUADRON OF F-5A/B AIRCRAFT AND WILL BEGIN ACTIVATING A SQUADRON OF F-5E/F AIRCRAFT IN JUNE. PROCUREMENT OF A SECOND ADDITIONAL SQUADRON APPEARS TO BE PRUDENT IN THAT IT PERMITS BUILDING OF THE SQUADRON PARTIALLY BASED ON ALREADY PURCHASED SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, LIMITS PROLIFERATION OF AIRCRAFT TYPES, IS A SYSTEM WHICH THE THAI CAN SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN, AND MEETS THE NEED FOR A REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT. THIS AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY RELEASED TO THE THAI AND DOES NOT VIOLATE GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN CURRENT ARMS EXPORT DIRECTIVES.

4. THE REQUEST IS FOR P&B ONLY. ALTHOUGH THE REQUEST DOES NOT DISCUSS FINANCING, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT SALE WOULD BE FMS CASE, WITH POSSIBLE USE OF FY 79/80 FMS CREDITS TO UNDERWRITE A PORTION OF THE COST (THE RTAF USUALLY IS CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLOCATED 20 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRY CREDIT LEVEL). DEPENDENT UPON PAYMENT SCHEDULES, FUTURE PAYMENTS MAY COME FROM THEIR CURRENT YEAR BUDGET OR FROM EXTERNAL FINANCING SOURCES. NO FIRM INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO US AT THIS TIME ON THIS MATTER.

5. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE THAI REQUEST FOR P&B ON THE SECOND SQUADRON OF F-5E AIRCRAFT AS BEING BOTH COST-EFFECTIVE AND AS A STEP TO PREVENT FURTHER PROLIFERATION OF AIRCRAFT TYPES IN THE RTAF INVENTORY. THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE PRIMARILY USED IN THE AIR DEFENSE ROLE, WITH A SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN AIR-TO-GROUND ATTACKS FOR THAI GROUND FORCES. WITHOUT REPLACEMENT OF THE T-28 AIRCRAFT, A SIGNIFICANT LOSS IN COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS WILL OCCUR IN THE POST 1980 TIME FRAME, AND THE RTG HAS WISELY DECIDED TO BEGIN MOVING TOWARD DECISION ON A SYSTEM NOW, RECOGNIZING THAT ALMOST THREE YEARS WILL PASS BEFORE SUCH A SQUADRON COULD BE IN PLACE.

6. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING OVER PAST FEW MONTHS THAI MILITARY EFFORTS TO DISCUSS INCREASED FMS ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. AND OUR EFFORTS TO DIS-

COURAGE EXTRAVAGANT EXPECTATIONS. SINCE THAILAND HAVE GOOD CASE  
FOR ANOTHER SQUADRON OF F-5E'S TO REPLACE AGEING T-28'S,  
HOPE WE COULD HAVE EARLY AND POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THAI REQUEST  
FOR P&B DATA ON THESE AIRCRAFT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES  
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**Draft Date:** 08 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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